

Amendments To the Abstract:

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 23 line 1, as follows:

--ABSTRACT--

In the English translation document, please add the paragraph at page 23 line 1, after the newly added ABSTRACT section heading, as follows:

The invention relates to a method for the automatic configuration of a communications device using a reserved identification number, at least one network node device, which administers an associated subnetwork of a network, at least one virtual network, with which the communications device is associated, whereby data packets exchanged within the virtual network are tagged with the reserved identification number. According to the inventive method, a network address of the subnetwork is determined by a network element arranged in the network. A configuration message adjusted with the network address of the subnetwork as the target address is transmitted by the network element to the network node device, which message is transmitted by the network node device to the virtual network as a broadcast message tagged with the reserved identification number. The broadcast message is received by the communications device and the communications device is configured using the identification number.